



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR JOHN F. KEENAN

NORFOLK AND PLYMOUTH DISTRICT

ROOM 413F, STATE HOUSE

BOSTON, MA 02133

REPRESENTING:

ABINGTON

BRAINTREE

HOLBROOK

QUINCY

ROCKLAND

December 5, 2018

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai and Commissioners O'Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel:

I write today to support the comments of Massachusetts Community Media, Inc. (MassAccess) and to join with them in opposing the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25, 2018 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

As a Massachusetts State Senator representing Quincy, Braintree, Abington, Rockland, and Holbrook, I work closely with the local Public, Education, and Government (PEG) channels in my district and see firsthand the critically important service and programming they provide to our communities. Statewide, I have advocated for granting PEG channels access to the HD tier and the electronic programming guide, so that they can match the programming offered by other channels. By providing citizens access to and coverage of local government proceedings and neighborhood events, these channels allow them to stay involved and aware of community happenings. At a time when "fake news" abounds and the integrity of the media is being questioned, and when interest in civic engagement is growing, these local channels are more critical than ever.

I believe the proposals set forth in the Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be detrimental to our PEG channels. For instance, the proposal that all cable-related "in-kind" contributions be considered "franchise fees" is extremely troubling, as it will remove a significant amount of local control from our municipalities and threaten the livelihood of PEG stations. Section 622 of the Cable Act clearly defines "franchise fees" and states that "[a]ny

Federal agency may not regulate the amount of the franchise fees paid by a cable operator.” Attempts to alter franchise fees in this way are unprecedented and outside of the authority granted to the FCC.

The PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act were included for the purpose of enhancing local voices, serving local community needs and interests, and strengthening local democracy. To this end, I agree with the comments submitted by MassAccess, and urge the Commission to give them every consideration.

Thank you for your kind attention to the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John F. Keenan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "K".

Sen. John F. Keenan
Norfolk and Plymouth